



MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

4160 PATTERSON AVENUE – BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21215
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Monday, March 28, 2016
Via teleconference

Minutes

Chairman Tanio called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Commissioners present: Carr-York, O’Grady, Pollak, Schneider, Stollenwerk, Thomas, and Weinstein

Legislation Affecting MHCC

Ben Steffen, Executive Director, presented HB 1385 “Public Health- Advance Directives- Procedures, Information Sheet and Use of Electronic Advance Directives.” He noted that the Commission has provided technical changes including the need to amend the bill to eliminate the requirement for multifactor identification. Commissioners had questions regarding the funding mechanism, the Spinal Cord Research Fund, and Erin Dorrien committed to providing the Commissioners with additional information.

Ben Steffen presented HB 1350/SB 707 “Freestanding Medical Facilities- Certificate of Need Rates and Definition.” Mr. Steffen presented several amendments including expanding the study of the five counties of the Eastern Shore to other rural areas, the delay of the conversion of Laurel Regional Hospital, and requirement for Washington Adventist to located an FMF in Takoma park. Commissioners urged resisting these amendments to the extent possible. Mr. Steffen also discussed HB 1121 “Health Care Facilities- Closures or Partial Closures of Hospitals- County Board of Health Approval.” These closure bills are still worrisome to staff and the Commission.

HB 1272/SB 886 “Health- Collaborations to Promote Provider Alignment” was the next bill discussed. Mr. Steffen noted that the Maryland Insurance Administration voiced strong concerns regarding providers taking on what was viewed as insurance risk via risk-sharing arrangements. Mr. Steffen said that the Maryland Hospital Association and Maryland Patient Care and Access Coalition are attempting to develop a revised bill the MIA can support. He stated that the future of this legislation was uncertain. Commissioners expressed support for these types of innovative arrangements and suggested that MHCC staff work to bring the stakeholders together.

Mr. Steffen then presented HB 1422 “Integrated Community Oncology Reporting Program.” Mr. Steffen stated that DHMH recommended that the legislature assign all responsibilities for implementing this pilot program to MHCC. Staff has informed Delegate Bromwell that MHCC lacks resources to take this without additional funding. Commissioners expressed support for the concepts in the legislation and pressed staff to look for ways to implement this bill.

Lastly Mr. Steffen discussed modification of CIO statute passed in 2010. The law enables hospitals to bring together providers and contract directly with payers. One requirement includes that in order to be CIO you needed to get a ruling from FTC. The legislation removes that restriction if the organization meets principles set by the FTC. Ann Arundel Medical Center and UMMS are interested participating in the CIO program.